

REMARKS

Claims 9, 11-13, 16-22 and 26-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 9, 16 and 18 are each amended to include the features of prior claim 10 and to include the features of claims 23-25, respectively; claims 10 and 23-25 are cancelled; and claims 26-28 are added each including the features of claims 11-12. No new matter is added.

I. The Claims Are Patentable Over The Applied References

The Office Action rejects claims 9-13 and 16-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0196452 to Komiya in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0020951 to Minowa et al. (Minowa). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As amended, the independent claims recite both costs of RIP processing, such as the costs of processing (RIP processing), and costs of printing, such as the costs of toner, ink, paper, and the like.

Regarding independent claims 9, 16 and 18, the applied references, if combined, fail to result in "wherein the first accounting amount includes costs of RIP processing but not costs of printing" (emphasis added).

The Office Action cites to Komiya and alleges that: (a) paragraphs [0051]-[0054] and Figs. 7 and 10-13 disclose the claimed accounting amount, stating "an accounting amount for the condition of the processing (printing condition)" (emphasis added, Office Action, page 4); and (b) paragraph [0054] and Figs. 8 and 10-13 disclose the claimed first accounting amount, stating "POD server 110 calculates test printing charge for test printing as a first accounting amount" (emphasis added, Office Action, page 4).

The Office Action acknowledges that Komiya fails to disclose the claimed receiving unit, storing unit, first accounting amount calculation unit, and accounting unit, but cites to Minowa as allegedly curing these deficiencies.

The Office Action cites to Minowa and alleges that: (a) paragraphs [0029]-[0032], [0146]-[0153] and [0175] disclose the claimed storage of a first relationship between a condition of RIP processing and an accounting amount, and states "ink consumption amount is based upon the resolution condition of the RIP processing and from ink consumption information, the accounting amount for the processing is calculated" (Office Action, page 6); and (b) paragraphs [0029]-[0032], [0146]-[0159], [0169]-[0178] and [0194] disclose the claimed first accounting amount, and states "first accounting amount of ink consumption for printing and non-printing purposes" (Office Action, page 6).

The feature quoted above was previously recited in claims 23-25. The Office Action, in rejecting this feature of prior claims 23-25, cites to Komiya and states "POD server 110 calculates test printing charge for test printing as a first accounting amount. The test printing accounting amount includes cost of test printing but does not include cost of image formation (actual printing) ..." (emphasis added, Office Action, page 11). See Komiya at paragraph [0054]. However, the "test printing" of Komiya is "actual printing" of a single copy for verification of finishing, prior to the printing of a full print job of multiple copies (Komiya, paragraph [0007] and Fig. 8).

The applied references fail to disclose the feature quoted above because Komiya's "printing charge of the test printing" disclosed in paragraph [0054] includes costs of (actual) printing. Further, Minowa's costs of printing/ink consumption are based on costs of printing, as acknowledged by the Office Action.

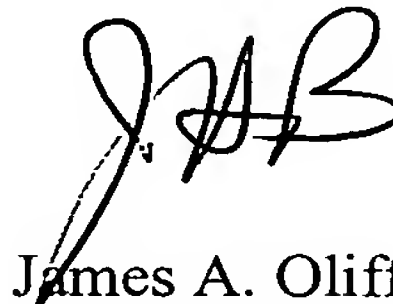
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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